

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AGRE-00 CA-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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-----110358 261729Z /53
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2266
ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 14009

E. O. 11652: GDS
SUBJECT: FURTHER LAND EXPROPRIATION ACTION BY MEXICAN
AGRARIAN REFORM SECRETARIAT

REF: MEXICO 13745

1. #SUMMARY: THE MEXICAN SECRETARIAT OF AGRARIAN REFORM HAS FOLLOWED ITS LAND EXPROPRIATION ACTION OF AUGUST 18 (SEE REFTEL) WITH ANOTHER ON AUG. 22 AND WITH AN ACCEPTANCE OF A FORCED "DONATION" OF A LARGE HOLDING OF LAND AUG23. WE DO NOT SEE RECENT GOM ACTIONS AS PART OF A SERIOUS DRIVE AGAINST ILLEGAL LAND HOLDERS AND BELIEVE THAT ANY ADDITIONAL ACTIONS WILL BE DIRECTED AGAINST SELECTED POLITICALLY VULNERABLE TARGETS.

2. ALL VICTIMS OF THE ACTIONS HAVE LONG REPUTATIONS AS BEING LATIFUNDISTAS (LARGE LAND HOLDERS) AND WERE THE MOST OFT-MENTIONED OF A NUMBER OF ALLEGED LATIFUNDISTAS IDENTIFIED IN THE PRESS RECENTLY. THEY WERE RELATIVELY EASY TARGETS FOR GOVERNMENTAL ACTION, AS TWO WERE POLITICIANS PAST THEIR PRIME AND ONE WAS APPARENTLY NEVER POLITICALLY ACTIVE.

3. THE ACTION AGAINST THE THREE MAY SATISFY FOR A TIME
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THE EVER PRESENT CALLS FOR AGRARIAN REFORM. HOWEVER, OTHERS, INCLUDING SOME AMERICANS AND A NUMBER OF PROMINENT MEXICANS, HAVE ALSO BEEN ACCUSED OF BEING LATIFUNDISTAS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME OTHER EXPROPRIATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE CANNOT AS YET BE DISCOUNTED.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT ANY ADDITIONAL ACTIONS WILL

TEND TO BE SELECTIVE IN NATURE, DIRECTED AGAINST THE
POLITICALLY WEAK, AND THAT THE RECENT GOM MOVES DO NOT
SIGNAL A SERIOUS CAMPAIGN AGAINST LARGE LANDHOLDERS,
MANY OF WHOM ARE RUMORED TO BE WELL CONNECTED OFFICIALS
AND POLITICIANS. FURTHER, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOM
WOULD WISH TO FOSTER A CRISIS ATMOSPHERE IN THE AGRARIAN
SECTOR, WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY PREJUDICE THE STATED
LOPEZ PORTILLO POLICIES OF INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRO-
DUCTION AND INVESTMENT. MCANINCH

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Message Attributes

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